

2005 Display

I did not have a display in 2005, although this was the year my interest in the hobby first grew...

Just like many others, I was drawn to this hobby by the Wizards in Winter video circulating the internet in November, 2005. Being a computer information systems major, I had to figure out how all this worked. I set about doing as much research as I could, and it didn't long to learn it was the video of Carson Williams' house, an electrical engineer in Mason, Ohio. Upon further research, I discovered he used Light-O-Rama products to achieve this feat.

After doing some looking into LOR, Wonderland Christmas, and Planet Christmas, I had all the tools I needed to get started. I learned to sequence using Don's (Wonderland Christmas) layout, because he had a lot of good information about his display, layout, and design online. I picked up a free demo copy of Light-O-Rama's software, and I have been hooked ever since.

Being a gifted musician (piano, organ, theory), a computer information systems major, and a multimedia minor, I had a love for programming and creative output. I immediately set about creating my first sequence using Don's display as a model. It was very time consuming, but I was quite pleased with how it came out. I sequenced God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen by Mehdi, and you can view it here.

I sent it to Don just because I was curious what he might say about it. Plus, I thought there was the possibility he might run it on his display, which would be an excellent opportunity for me to learn. I received this response: It's way too late at night .. but I decided since the lights are up, let's run it and see what it looks like.

Not bad at all! What you can't tell from my animation is the layout of my mini trees in the yard ... they aren't quite in a straight line. You might have done a few things differently had you known that.

It's beyond me to tell anyone their work is bad ... and everyone has their own style. There were some things in there I didn't care for ... but there were some things in there that opened my eyes to a new way of doing things. (And the things I didn't care for could simply be things that weren't 100% done, or things that didn't translate to the animation view very well. Would you be offended horribly if I cleaned a few things up, and used it in the display? (I need to look it over for intensities, and a few things that I saw tonight... very minor stuff.) Would you object to me putting your name to it in the display? Also, when I video it, I will credit you with the sequencing and timings if you wish. How it's displayed will be up to you.

Needless to say, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen made it into his 2005 show, which was very exciting for me. I worked on creating more sequences and studying other sequences to become better. Being a college student, I didn't have a display to design for, so my work died off. However, I later picked it up again, because I wanted to be involved in that community even if I didn't have a computerized display. The work paid off later, because I converted some of my sequences for a window display in 2006. Because of my interest, I created <http://LORsequences.com> to allow LOR users to share their programming.

While there is a lot of LOR information all over the web, there were not many places with good walkthroughs as far as design, layout, channels, and sequencing. Don's work on the LOR Wiki certainly took great strides to cover this area, and it has become the largest LOR resource we have today. For those who want to learn computer control, I nightly recommend both the LOR Wiki and Planet Christmas.

My main goal is to provide sequences and videos, and to be one of the first websites to begin teaching sequencing. Based on my experience, there are plenty of videos online, but it's still hard to find sequences with videos of the sequences, and how to's for sequencing. Short of a few articles, the my website <http://LORsequences.com> has fallen short of this goal, although it has become a great resource for sharing sequences. [Back]